Risca Urban District Council

Medical Officer's &
Public Health Inspector's

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR
1961

RISCA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Vice-Chairman — Councillor R. J. BEACHAM

Members of the Council

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Councillor J. G. Betty
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T. L. Cowlin, F.C.C.S.

Engineer and Surveyor

O. Parry Morgan, M.I.Mun.E.

Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

Kenneth Wallace, F.I.M.T.A.

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. K. P. Giles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

Glyn M. Jenkins, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Risca Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1961

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District for the year ended 31st December, 1961. This report is compiled according to instructions contained in Circular 1/62 (Wales).

SECTION "A"
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA

Area of the District (in acres)	4,199
Population 1959	13,990
Rateable Value	£90,028
Sum represented by one penny rate (estimated)	£350

Vital Statistics

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	12.48
The Birth Rate for England and Wales	17.4
The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was	17.85

Infant Mortality

	Total	*Males*	*Females*
Death of Infants under 1 year	5	4	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births			28.90
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			15.04
Death Rate for England and Wales			12.0
Death Rate for County of Monmouth			14.36
Infant Death Rate for County of Monmouth			27.97

Ages at death of Children under 1 year

Under 1 week	4
1-2 weeks	-
2-3 weeks	-
3-4 weeks	-
Total under 1 month	4
1-3 months	-
3-6 months	-
6-9 months	-
9-12 months	1
Total under 1 year	5

There are no special causes of sickness during the year which need reporting on. The general conditions of health were good.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	*F.*
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	10	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	15	10
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	10
Coronary disease, angina	27	14
Hyper-tension with heart disease	-	5
Other heart disease	11	11
Other circulatory disease	5	5
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	5	2
Bronchitis	9	-
Other disease of respiratory system ...	5	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1

	M	F
Hyperplasia of postrate	2	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortions	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10	7
Motor vehicles accidents	-	-
All other accidents	2	-
Suicide	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes	125	70

Social Conditions.—The chief Industries carried on in this Area are coal-mining and its subsidiary industries, also steel manufacturing. There are also several stone quarries and brick works.

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. *Public Health Officers of the Authority.* One Medical Officer of Health and one Public Health Inspector (whole-time Officers).

2. *Hospital Services.* Hospital Services are administered by the Regional Hospital Board as and from 5th July, 1948.

The Monmouthshire County Council is responsible for administering the following services under Part III of the Act:—

(a) Care of Mothers and Young Children

(b) Midwifery Services

(c) Health Visiting

(d) Home Nursing

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

(f) Ambulance Services

(g) Prevention of Illness (Care and After-Care)

(h) Domestic Help Scheme

(i) Duties under Lunacy and Mental Treatment and Mental Deficiency Acts.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. *Water Supplies.*

The completion of the Llanover Scheme by the Abertillery and District Water Board has been of benefit to the Risca Area inasmuch as the long standing complaints of inadequate water supplies at Wattsville have now been eliminated.

As far as the area comprising Hill Street, Priory Street and Woodview Road is concerned, the installation of the Strathaven water tower has also given a consistent supply during the past year.

The part of the Area where the supplies are not consistent during the year is the higher levels of Taylorstown and Penrhiw where during dry weather the supply becomes inadequate.

2. *Drains and Sewerage*

During the year a new 15 inch diameter subsidiary foul sewer 1,000 yards long was laid from the Ty-Sign Housing Site to the main Trunk Sewer in Commercial Street at Mill Street junction.

A 48 inch storm water sewer was also laid from the site to the Rhynys Field Brook.

The required extension to the Council's sewerage system is being carried out at Ty-Sign, comprising various sizes of sewers.

3. *Rivers and Streams*

Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act 1951

The administration of the above Act so far as the rivers Ebbw and Sirhowy are concerned is vested in the Usk River Board.

Any complaints received are forwarded to the Officers of the Board for such action as they consider necessary.

During the year swabs were laid in the river Sirhowy at Nine Mile Point and in the river Ebbw at Pontywain and Tanybryn.

The organisms Salmonella Typhimurium and Salmonella Paratyphoid B were isolated, which is an indication that crude sewage is being discharged into the rvers.

Chemical pollution of the river also taking place and in this respect the steelworks at Ebbw Vale is no doubt the main offender.

Until these rivers have been brought to a satisfactory standard of purity they must always be regarded as a potential source of danger to public health.

4. *Closet Accommodation*

Particulars will be found in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

5. *Public Cleansing*

There were no extensions or improvements during the year in the arrangements for public cleansing.

6. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

A classified statement of the premises visited, the defects and nuisances discovered and the action and result of action taken with regard to these will be found in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

7. *Shops*

The shops in the area are periodically visited by your Public Health Inspector and appropriate action taken to deal with any nuisances or defects discovered.

8. *Smoke Abatement*

Complaints regarding the emmission of smoke, chiefly from local industries are received from time to time. Appropriate action is taken to deal with these complaints as they arise.

A lead peroxide candle to measure the amount of sulphur trioxide in the atmosphere was installed at "The Mount", Penrhiw in September, 1960, as part of a scheme agreed by local authorities in South Monmouthshire to measure possible atmospheric pollution from the Spencer Steelworks at Llanwern.

Monthly reports as to the amounts of sulphur trioxide have been received from Dr. James, the Public Analyst.

During the year the highest reading was 1.03 m.g. of sulphur trioxide (S.03) collected by 100 sq. cm. of lead peroxide per day and the lowest 0.27 m.g.

I consider the results for the year to be quite satisfactory.

9. *Swimming Baths*

There is one open-air Swimming Baths owned by the Council. Samples of water were taken from the shallow and deep ends for free chlorine and we all found to be of a satisfactory standard.

At the present moment the water is chlorinated by the baths attendant who empties the chloros into the water at several points, but this method cannot be regarded as being satisfactory and cannot be relied upon to give a free chlorine content of uniform strength throughout the water.

Consideration should be given to the installation of a new plant at the baths.

10. *Eradication of Bed Bugs and Vermin*

5 houses were found to be infested with bugs, beetles or other vermin. In each case complete eradication was effected by means of spraying with D.D.T. insecticide.

11. *Schools*

The Schools in the District were visited during the year and when defects were found they were reported to the Education Authority.

SECTION "D"

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year*

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 58

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 182

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ... -

(*b*) Number of inspections for the purpose ... ... -

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... -

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in full respects fit for human habitation ... ...

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 44

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year*

(a) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... ... -

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... -

(*a*) By Owners

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 12

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices -

(*a*) By Owners 10

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners -

(c) Proceedings under Section 16, 17 and 18 of the Housing, Act, 1957 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... ... -

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 5

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... -

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... -

4. *Housing Act*, 1957. *Overcrowding*

(*a*) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... -

(*b*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 4

(*c*) Particulars of any houses becoming overcrowded after first relief ... ... -

SECTION "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(*a*) *Milk Supply.*—Dairies have been regularly inspected and samples of milk taken and examined for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, under the various Milk and Dairies Orders. For details see Public Health Inspector's Report.

(*b*) *Meat and Other Foods.*—For Action taken with regard to Meat and other Foods, Slaughter Houses, etc., see Public Health Inspector's Report.

(*c*) *Adulteration.*—No special action was taken under these Acts and Regulations.

(*d*) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*—Ample use is made of the facilities provided by the County Laboratory.

(*e*) *Nutrition.*—No action has been taken under this Section.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Where necessary all cases of Infectious Diseases are visited and investigated by the Public Health Inspector on receipt of notification from the local Doctors.

The method of procedure with regard to immunisation has recently been amended. Now we are giving three injections each containing anti Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

Where it is found that a person has had Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus only are given. Occasionally an injection against Tetanus alone is given.

The following are particulars relating to immunisation and vaccination carried out during the year 1961, in respect of the Council's area.

Whooping Cough	
0 — 4 years	233
5 — 14 years	9
Booster Injections	
0 — 4 years	-
Diphtheria Immunisations	
Primary Injections	
Under 1 year	64
1 — 4 years	192
5 — 14 years	142
Booster Injections	
Under 1 year	-
1 — 4 years	18
5 — 14 years	509
Small-pox Vaccinations	
Under 1 year	50
1 year	39
2 — 4 years	7
5 — 14 years	3
15 and over	11
Revaccinated	
1 — 4 years	1
5 — 14 years	2
15 and over	9

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations

I give below details of the Poliomyelitis Vaccinations which have been carried out at the Risca Clinic during the year ended December, 1961.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Risca	619	694	350	769

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases according to Age Groups.

Diseases.	Cases Notified. Age Groups.													Deaths. Age Groups.													
	0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 +	Total all Ages	0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 +	Total all Ages	Number Admitted to Hospitals.
Diphtheria																											
Scarlet Fever						1							1														
Enteric Fever																											
Pneumonia	4	1	1	1		1		1	2	3	10	8	32		1									1	5	7	3
Puerperal Fever ..																											
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..																											
Acute Poliomyelitis ..																											
Enceph. Lethargica ..																											
Dysentery																											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																											
Puerperal Pyrexia ..									1				1														
Measles & German Measles	13	34	45	56	67	213	17	1					446														
Whooping Cough ..			1		1								2														
Other Diseases ..																											
Erysipelas ..																											
Food Poisoning ..							1				2	1	4														
Paratyphoid ..																											
Meningococcal Infection																											
Totals ..	17	35	46	58	68	215	18	2	3	3	12	9	486		1									1	5	7	3

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	Cases Notified				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1								
1- 5								
5-15								
15-25								
25-35	1	1						
35-45								
45-65	1							
65 and over					2			
Total	2	1			2			

Inspections of Factories and Workshops

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Prose-cutions
Factories with Mechanical Power	14	-	-
Factories without Mechanical Power	-	-	-
	14	-	-

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops

	Defects found	Defects remedied	Refer to H.M. Insp.	Prose-cutions
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences ...	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective...	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—

I am, your obedient Servant,

K. P. GILES.

Risca Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31st December, 1961

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report of the work accomplished by the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the year

Exterior

Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	38
External walls repaired or repointed	6
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	7
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	19
Rainwater downpipes repaired or renewed	14
Chimney stacks repaired	6

Interior

Floors repaired or renewed	12
Windows repaired or renewed	17
Walls replastered	25
Ceilings replastered	6
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	4
Window cords fixed	25

Drainage

Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	5
Flush pipe repaired or renewed	2
Burst water pipes repaired	4
Seats repaired or renewed	3
Drains repaired	10
Inspection Chambers repaired and provided with covers	8
New waste pipes fixed	4
New pedestal pans provided and fixed	5
New wash-up basins	2
Doors of W.C. compartments repaired or renewed ..	3

FOOD INSPECTION

The following are particulars of meat and other foodstuffs surrendered and destroyed as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

5¾ lbs. Bacon	Decomposition
32 tins Cooked Ham	Blown Condition
22 tins Peas	,, ,,
15 tins Tomatoes	,, ,,

59 tins Corned Beef	,,	,,
20 tins Chopped Pork	,,	,,
10 tins Jellied Veal	,,	,,
10 tins Pork Luncheon Meat	,,	,,
5 tins Tongue	,,	,,
6 tins Carrots	,,	,,
9 tins Salmon	,,	,,
5 tins Pears	,,	,,
9 tins Fruit Salad	,,	,,
7 tins Soup	,,	,,
2 tins Milk	,,	,,
3 tins Beef Steak	,,	,,
8 tins Stewed Steak	,,	,,
2 tins Chopped Ham	,,	,,
3 tins Cream	,,	,,
3 tins Pilchards	,,	,,
1 tin Pineaples	,,	,,

Public Health Meat Regulations 1924 *and Slaughterhouses Act* 1954

Two private slaughterhouses are licensed by the Council to meet the requirements of local butchers.

Slaughtering is still carried on outside normal office hours on two nights during the week and on Sundays but the duties of meat inspection have been eased considerably by the appointment of Mr. John Richards, Public Health Inspector to the County Borough of Newport.

The Slaughterhouses are being conducted in a satisfactory manner. During the year 3,001 animals were slaughtered. The weight of meat and offal condemned was estimated at 649 lbs. Details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the area are as follows:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	235	-	14	2225	527
Number inspected	235	-	14	2225	527
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	58	-	-	44	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with the disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	20.5%	-	-	1.9%	.75%

Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	.75%
Cysticerci.					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...					
Generalised and totally condemned					

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries—Rodent Control Scheme

During the past year the Rodent Control Operative has been very active in carrying out treatments as prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. All business and private premises found to be infested were dealt with promptly and very satisfactory results were obtained.

The method of treatment consists of pre-baiting on four consecutive days, poisoning on the fifth and the poison left and any dead bodies picked up on the sixth day. In all a total of 209 premises were treated for rats and mice, 186 private, 15 business, 7 belonging to the Council and 1 farm.

Two maintenance treatments of the sewer manholes were carried out during the year. This treatment consists of pre-baiting on two days and poisoning on the third day. From past experience I can say that these sewer treatments have the effect of keeping the degree of infestation at a safe low level and this has a correspondingly beneficial effect upon the degree and severity of surface infestations.

I am pleased to report that the Rodent Control Operative is most enthusiastic and conscientious and is doing a most important job in a very praiseworthy manner.

A very good sign too is the growing consciousness of this problem among the general public and we find that apart from the infestations found during routine inspections, people are becoming more co-operative in quickly reporting complaints of rats and mice.

Milk Supplies

During the year much time was devoted to the carrying out of the legislation contained in The Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949, The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949, and The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, make a distinction between dairy farmers, *i.e.* milk producers, and milk distributors, *i.e.* persons trading from premises other than a dairy farm, and between dairy farms and other premises at which milk is handled. The registrations of dairy farmers and dairy farms under the Regulations is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the registration of milk distributors and other dairy premises is the responsibility of local authorities. This means that Officers of Local Authorities no longer have power to visit dairy farms to inspect conditions under which milk is produced.

During the year 57 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological analysis. All of these samples passed the Phosphates test but 7 failed the Methylene Blue test.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947

A great deal of time was devoted to ensuring that manufacturers and retailers of ice-cream complied with the above-mentioned regulations. This was particularly the case where the hot mix method of manufacture was used.

This method means that after the ingredients have been mixed the mixture shall not be kept for more than one hour above 45°F. before being raised to and kept at a temperature of not less than 150°F. for 30 minutes or 160°F. for 10 minutes. It shall then, within 1½ hours be reduced to not more than 45°F. and there kept until freezing is begun. Ice cream must not be sold unless kept at a temperature not exceeding 28°F.

Food and Drugs Act 1955

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955

During the year much of my time has been spent in visiting the food premises of the district in order to discuss the provisions of the above-mentioned Regulations.

These Regulations replace Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 and add a number of new provisions in the hygiene handling of food, and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls and vehicles, etc., where food is handled.

The Regulations lay down requirements in respect of the cleanliness of food premises and stalls, and of apparatus and equipment. With regard to the hygenic handling of food, persons so employed shall take all such steps as may be reasonably necessary to protect the food from risk of contamination and shall not so place the food, or permit it to be so placed, as to involve any risk of contamination.

Regulation 9 deals with personal cleanliness and requires that a person who handles food shall keep as clean as may be reasonably practicable, all parts of his person, clothing, over-clothing or

overalls which may be liable to come into contact with food. Any open cut or abrasion on any exposed part of the person must be covered with a water-proofed dressing. Spitting is now an offence and the use of tobacco (including snuff) is forbidden.

The use of newspaper as a primary wrapping material is now prohibited and I consider this to be a measure of control long overdue.

The Regulations deal at length with the construction of food premises, stalls and vehicles, and the facilities to be provided.

Infectious Disease

All notified cases of infectious diseases were promptly visited and all efforts were made to trace any possible source of infection.

Advice as to the precautions necessary to be taken is given to the householder. Every house is thoroughly sprayed or fumigated when the attending doctor certifies the patient to be free from infection.

Shops Acts, 1912—1950

The shops in the district were visited on many occasions in order to ensure that the above-mentioned Acts were being complied with.

Whilst carrying out food inspection, advantage was taken to inspect the conditions under which the employees, if any, are working.

Particular attention was paid to cleanliness, sanitary conveniences and their conditions, washing facilities, and as to whether seating accommodation was provided for female employees.

With regard to the above-mentioned matters, I can report that these requirements are being observed by the shop-keepers generally.

Verminous Premises

During routine house inspection of both private and Council properties, care is taken to ascertain any infestation by vermin.

Any cases which are found in this way and those which are reported by tenants are dealt with by spraying with an insecticide and satisfactory results have been obtained, 5 houses found to be infested with vermin were dealt with in this way and eradication effected.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

GLYN M. JENKINS,

Public Health Inspector.

The Starling Press Ltd., Risca, Mon.